



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
**ENERGY EFFICIENCY &
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, May 5, 2016 | 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Conference Room B, 2nd Floor, Department of Administration, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

In Attendance: Abigail Anthony, Marisa Desautel, Marion Gold, Mike Guerard, Chris Kearns, Danny Musher, Jeremy Newberger, Scudder Parker, Rachel Sholly, Betsy Stubblefield Loucks, Nick Ucci

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Abigail Anthony called the meeting to order at 2:07 PM.

2. Approval of April Meeting Minutes

Ms. Anthony made a motion to approve the April meeting minutes. Betsy Stubblefield Loucks seconded and all approved.

3. Executive Director Report

Commissioner Marion Gold reported that the Governor has nominated two existing Council members – Ms. Anthony and Ms. Stubblefield Loucks – for re-appointment. Joe Newsome decided that he did not wish to be re-appointed, therefore, there are three new appointments pending advice and consent from the Senate. Anthony Hubbard of YouthBuild Providence has been nominated as the low income representative. Tom Magliocchetti of Lifespan/Rhode Island Hospital has been nominated as the large non-profit representative. Kat Burnham from People's Power & Light has been nominated as the small non-profit representative. Commissioner Gold noted that Mr. Magliocchetti ask if the Council had board insurance. Marisa Desautel, Council attorney, explained that the Council does not have insurance but the Attorney General's office would provide legal support in the event it is needed.

Ms. Anthony suggested holding another retreat to help educate newer members on relevant topics. Commissioner Gold suggested the Council discuss a way to thank Mr. Newsome for his service.

Mr. Ucci reported that he and Mike Guerard met with Shigeru Osada who expressed concerns about whether reported energy reductions can actually be attributed to efficiency programs. Mr. Guerard suggested including an educational session on measurement and evaluation at an upcoming Council meeting. Mr. Guerard added that another issue raised was that National Grid did not provide the data requested. Ms. Stubblefield Loucks felt that any time spent on this should be valuable to more Council members than just Mr. Osada, as so much time has already been spent on TEC-RI requests. Mr. Ucci said that he explained to Mr. Osada that there are other pathways beyond the Council to engage in this issue. Jeremy Newberger said that National Grid can absolutely do a presentation on EM&V in June or July. Regarding the data request, National Grid felt that it was responsive. Mr. Ucci would like to facilitate solutions to Mr. Osada's concerns. Ms. Anthony pointed out that it is good for Council members to bring different perspectives to the table. Mr. Newberger and Mr. Guerard will discuss an outline for a presentation on EM&V to the Council.

4. Policy and Planning Issues

a) PUC Review into Changing Distribution System

The consultant team and attorney updated the Committee on the status of Public Utilities Commission (PUC) docket #4600 and the EERMC's engagement. Ms. Anthony said that the PUC expects the process to take about a year. Marisa Desautel, Council attorney, said that the result of the process is to be a guidance document, which is supposed to go through the rule-making process if Commissioners are using it to make decisions.

b) Savings Targets Process Update

The consultant team updated the Committee on the savings targets work and provided high level content for the Council meeting presentation on May 12. The memo in the packets was distributed to all Council members. Primary work is key drivers, which is now being termed dial-turners. Process to understand where we are with lighting, current standard and how it maps out. Lighting savings are likely to go down precipitously over the next few years due to the market penetration of LED lighting. Dunskey is working on a memo on how financing might impact savings targets. He added that with this set of targets it is important to remember that they are just guideposts and best guesses; it is getting more difficult to predict in this environment of rapid evolution. Mr. Guerard said that it may not be until July that actual numbers are proposed. One thing that might impact the targets is what happens with the cost-effectiveness test as part of the updates to the Least Cost Procurement standards, because targets setting is being done right before the standards are set to be updated.

c) Update on Synapse Contract for Demand Response Consulting Services

The consultant team updated the Committee on the process of hiring Synapse to assist the EERMC with demand response issues. Commissioner Gold and Vice Chair Anthony signed the contract. The basic work plan should be ready to present to the Council, and perhaps the Collaborative, next month. Their scope will include looking into what customers might be doing on their own to improve their load factor and what can be done to improve load shape.

d) EERMC Role in Resource Diversification

Following the draft review at last month's meeting, the consultant team presented for Committee feedback an updated dashboard outlining Council activities. The Committee confirmed that this is the right direction. The consultant team will complete, polish, and send it out electronically, targeting July.

5. Review of EERMC Annual Report Final Draft

The OER and consultant team presented the final draft of the 2016 Annual Report including proposed policy recommendations. The Committee asked Ms. Sholly to compile a few slides to summarize the Report highlights for the full Council meeting.

6. Council Business

a) Discuss Rescheduling of Executive Committee Meetings

The Committee reviewed the proposed calendar of meetings if the Committee were to move its meeting time to two weeks before full Council meetings. The Committee agreed to the revised calendar with a couple revisions. The revised calendar will be posted to the Secretary of State website.

b) Draft EERMC June Meeting Agenda

Ms. Sholly and Mr. Guerard will draft a presentation on the Annual Report highlights. Ms. Sholly will draft the agenda item description to make it clear that the final version is being presented for approval and feedback will not be taken.

Mr. Ucci added that the state is now moving forward on demand response for the first time consistent with the Governor's Lead by Example goals. Mr. Parker said that it would be good to tie it in with the work of Synapse.

7. Adjournment

Ms. Anthony made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Stubblefield Loucks seconded and all approved. The meeting was adjourned at 3:18 PM.